

## **SAUL, PHILLIP, SIMON, REPENTANCE**

### **Acts 8:1-22**

**Acts 8:1** *Consenting:* pleased with; approving. *Great persecution against the church...* Sanhedrin enraged by zeal and success of apostles. Resolved to end spread of gospel once for all. *Except the apostles.* they stayed and God took care of them.

**Acts 8:2** *Devout:* religious; not necessarily Christian men. *Carried Stephen:* Grk-collected, bandaged. ...*made great lamentation over him.* Minstrels, cutting the flesh, tearing the hair, crying bitterly, females in the family give out a loud and horrible wail.

**Acts 8:3** Saul doing everything he could to bring devastation upon the church.

**Acts 8:4** *Preaching:* announcing the good word; everyone! Everywhere!

**Acts 8:5** *Philip:*

- First missionary,
- One of 7 chosen to minister to widows in Acts 6:5.
- Only man in Bible given title of evangelist (Acts 21:8).
- Four godly daughters (Acts 21:9)

*Samaria:* Samaritans viewed as half-breeds, compromisers and wicked by Jews.

*Preached Christ:* Christ is Messiah, God in flesh. Fulfillment of prophecy. Provide redemption for mankind.

**Acts 8:6** *G ave heed:* Obeyed, adhered to. *With one accord:* unanimously, totally. Why ready to respond? Already turned from idolatry...now worshipping true God. Sincere in worship but sincerely wrong. Worshipping in spirit ...not in truth John 4:24 . Sincere but sincerely lost.

**Acts 8:7** Signs and wonders: authentication of ministry of Philip.

**Acts 8:8** *Great joy:* Loud (mega) rejoicing experienced throughout the city of Samaria.

**Acts 8:9** *Simon:* Founder of Gnosticism? Miracle-worker.

*some great one:* Look at me and see the power of God. People of Samaria vulnerable to false prophets and false doctrine. Enamored with supernatural.

Satan a master counterfeit. Can mimic and imitate. Angel of light. 2 Cor 11:14-15

**Acts 8:10** People believed him!

**Acts 8:11** Had them spell bound because of his magic acts and sorceries.

*Sorceries:* magical arts, potions, and poisons. (see Gal. 5:20; Rev. 18:23; 21:8; 22:15).

Just because it is supernatural doesn't mean that it is of God!

Child of God has no business involved in witchcraft. Throughout the OT God condemns anything and everything that has to do with witches and witchcraft.

Exo 22:18; Deu 18:10-13

*Acts 8:12 Kingdom of God.* Rom 14:17 The reign of God in the heart. *Name of Jesus Christ, Authority & reputation* of Jesus Christ. *Baptized, both men and women.* First step of obedience after salvation

*Acts 8:13 Believed also: professing* believer. ...*continued with Philip* – Common for new converts to spend all time with one who led them to Christ.

*Acts 8:14 Peter and John:* probably quite shocked to find out that gospel alive and well in Samaria. *Samaria had received the word of God.* God not as selective as they were. God is not a respecter of persons.

Acts 8:15 Transitional time in program of God. *Holy Spirit came upon church in stages.*

*Acts 8:16* Believers baptized but not yet received Holy Spirit.

*Acts 8:17* Laying on of hands a symbol of identification. *Holy Spirit came instantly upon them.* God had demonstrated his blessings on new Samaritan believers.

*Acts 8:18 Simon* thought that there was a price for spiritual power. Simon placed a cash value on the Holy Spirit. *Simony:* purchasing and selling spiritual offices and benefits.

*Acts 8:19 Saying, Give me also this power,* ... Simon wanted spirituality of apostles without the Lordship of Christ.

Externals rather than internal.

Fruits rather than Person of Salvation.

Believed because of power and results.

*Acts 8:13 Simon himself believed also*

Believe what?

- Jesus is the Messiah
- Jesus had ability to perform miracles
- Jesus raised from dead.
- Power of God. God behind miracles.

**Mac:** *Simon believed in the signs but not in the One whose power was behind them. True salvation is not mere profession or ritual act. It is the divine transformation of the soul from love of self to love of God, from love of sin to love of holiness.*

- He could have this power.
- The Gospel.

Simon Magus, believed the gospel and went through the motions of identifying with the death burial and resurrection of Christ by being baptized.

**Wondered:** same as “bewitched”, astounded, amazed, beside self, full of wonder. Couldn’t believe that a man doing such miracles.

**Continued with Philip.** Everywhere Philip went, Simon went.

- ❖ Sustain contact with people
- ❖ **Constantly amazed.** Had a professional interest
- ❖ To figure out how to acquire power for himself.

Vv 20-21 May your money be lost forever with you beside it because of **your false motives in believing the gospel.** You are still unconverted and without Christ.

**Acts 8:22 Repent:** Change of mind and attitude toward.....

**Wickedness:** badness, depravity, malignity, trouble, evil, naughtiness,

- Being a fake
- Trying to buy God off.

Simon interested in status, money.

**Simon made a profession of faith:** Think that making a profession of faith and following through with believers’ baptism will get you to heaven, you are wrong!

**Just because a person “believes the Gospel” doesn’t mean he is saved!**

Satan is a “believer.” James 2:19

Belief alone without repentance doesn’t produce salvation! Mark 1:15

Several verses in the Bible which talk about repenting and not believing?

Must be taken as a whole.

Why?

1. Because of recipients – when verse speaks only about repentance, recipients understood belief. When verse speaks about believing, recipients understood repentance.
2. Because repentance and Belief overlap in meaning. Can’t have one without the other.

Repentance: Turning from unbelief to belief.

Belief: a belief strong enough to turn from (repentance) believing a lie to believing the truth concerning Christ.

**You haven’t believed unless you have repented and you haven’t repented unless you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew Hen: *Even bad men, and those whose hearts still go after covetousness, may come before God as his people come, and for a time continue with them. And*

*many wonder at the proofs of Divine truths, who never experience their power. The gospel preached may have a common operation upon a soul, where it never produced inward holiness. All are not savingly converted who profess to believe the gospel.*

Mark 16:15 Preach the Gospel.

Luke 24:46-47 What mean to preach gospel? Preach the good news and to preach repentance ... preach repentance toward God and faith toward the LJC (Acts 20:21)

**J. Edwin Orr:** *In Mark's Gospel, our Lord's calling and coaching of the twelve disciples is reported, after which "They went out and preached that men should repent."*

## So What?

Satan is the master counterfeit

A child of God has no business, at all, to be involved in witchcraft.

Simon wanted the spirituality of the apostles but without the Lordship of Christ.

He wanted the externals rather than the internal.

He wanted the fruits of salvation rather than the Person of Salvation. He "believed" because of the power and the results.

You haven't believed unless you have repented and you haven't repented unless you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.